CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Letter dated 10 October 1967 from the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Head of the State delegation of the German Democratic Republic, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the GDR, Mr. Georg Stibi, has delivered to me, as the representative of the USSR in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament and co-Chairman of this Committee, a Statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament and has requested that this Statement be brought to the notice of all States Members of the Committee. The aforesaid Statement sets out the position of the Government of the German Democratic Republic in regard to the draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons submitted by the delegation of the USSR in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

I request you to arrange for my letter, to which the Statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic is attached, to be circulated by the Secretariat of the Committee as an official document of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

(signed) A. ROSHCHIN
Representative of the USSR in the
Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament

67-23918

Statement[1]
of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to
the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has for years worked for the renunciation by both German states of nuclear weapons. It supports all steps which can prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms. For this reason the Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons submitted by the delegation of the USSR to the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament. It views the draft as an appropriate basis for the early conclusion of a treaty excluding the further spreading of nuclear weapons in any form.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic shares the view of almost all states of the world which see in the early conclusion of an effective treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons a contribution to reducing the danger of an atomic world war. It also works resolutely for a nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty because it would enhance the security of the peoples of Europe.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has worked out a constructive programme for the indispensable contribution of both German states to the bringing about of European security. It proposed to the Government of the West German Federal Republic that relations between the two German states be normalized, that the use of force in their mutual relations be renounced by treaty, that arms expenditures be cut by one-half each, that the renunciation by both German states of the possession, control or share in the control over nuclear weapons in any form be agreed upon and that they participate in a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Europe.

The endeavours of the German Democratic Republic and of many other European states to establish an effective system of security in Europe would benefit from an international treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons preventing the nuclear arming of the West German Federal Republic.

In this connexion the Government of the German Democratic Republic feels called upon to expound its views on some questions of the contents of such a treaty.

Owing to its lack of sources of natural energy the German Democratic Republic takes a greater interest than some other states in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Precisely for this reason it supports the Soviet draft treaty

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1/ Translation provided by the USSR delegation.

binding the signatory states to promote the peaceful use of atomic energy and providing for comprehensive international co-operation in this sphere. The participation of all signatory states in the peaceful use of atomic energy on a basis of equality would be reliably ensured under this provision of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Government of the German Democratic Republic therefore sees no discrimination whatever in a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Such a treaty could check the atomic arms race, counteract the waste of resources for military purposes and thereby release considerable additional scientific and financial potentialities for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic resolutely works for an effective control of the peaceful use of atomic energy orientated on the basic objectives of the treaty thus guaranteeing the observance of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It views the control by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to which the big majority of UN member states belong as a suitable instrument to assure the adherence to the provisions of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic rejects any attempt to prevent an effective control of the observance of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. A so-called control by EURATOM, a closed monopolistic grouping formed exclusively by members of NATO with considerable influence being exerted by the West German Federal Republic, is incompatible with an effective control of the observance of the provisions of a nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty since it would mean nothing but a self-control by the West German Federal Republic.

The Government of the West German Federal Republic, which maintained for years that international control was an absolute prerequisite for any move towards relaxation and disarmament, today most stubbornly opposes a uniform control of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It becomes clear now that it wants to evade an effective control to keep open - in one way or other - access to nuclear weapons.

The assertion of the West German Federal Government that it "definitively renounced the production of nuclear, bacteriological and chemical weapons already on October 3rd 1954" is intended to disguise the real state of affairs. The then West German Chancellor Adenauer declared in a statement on October 3rd 1954 that the West German Federal Republic only obligated itself not to produce nuclear weapons <u>on its own territory</u>. The West German Federal Republic has, however, by no means renounced

the acquisition of nuclear weapons, their production abroad or their use and the training of the West German army in the handling of nuclear weapons. It has, for example, concluded far-reaching agreements with the Republic of South Africa on the production and testing of atomic weapons on South African territory.

The West German Federal Republic has the prerequisites for its own nuclear arms production. Its opposition to uniform control by the International Atomic Energy Agency can only be interpreted as the intention to keep roads open to the production of nuclear weapons, alone or in co-operation with other states, and to control over nuclear weapons within the framework of regional groupings.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic holds the view that a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons must be concluded for an unlimited period. Only then can such a treaty become fully effective for the noble aim of safeguarding peace, of humanity, international relaxation and security.

In open contradiction to the establishment of an atmosphere of confidence among all states, which is an indispensable prerequisite for taking steps towards effective disarmament, the Government of the West German Federal Republic demands a "time limitation in the treaty" or far-reaching possibilities for revision. Both are suited to encourage aggressive intentions.

The West German Federal Government opposes the cancellation clauses of the draft treaty because they do not permit an arbitrary withdrawal from it. This makes it quite clear that the West German Federal Government aims at keeping open an access to nuclear weapons for a later date.

It is not by chance that the Government of the West German Federal Republic raises every possible objection to a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. These objections are designed to cover up the actual reasons for the West German Government's opposition to the conclusions of such a treaty.

The West German Federal Government regards nuclear weapons as suitable instruments for implementing its efforts to revise the status quo. The aggressive sole representation pretension and the striving for a revision of the frontiers in Europe are to be given weight with atomic weapons as "a military potentiality". In this connexion the Government of the German Democratic Republic points to the fact that the Government of the West German Federal Republic persistently refuses to agree on a binding renunciation of the use of force with the German Democratic Republic and to recognize the existing frontiers in Europe.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has a special interest in the speedy conclusion of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons since the maintenance and safeguarding of peace is the highest concern of its foreign policy and because preventing West German atomic armament is a key question for security in Europe and the future of the German nation. It expresses the expectation that the member states of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament will be guided by Resolution 2028 (XX) of the United Nations General Assembly, according to which a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons may contain no loopholes which could permit a direct or indirect further spreading of nuclear weapons.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic will, for its part, make every effort, in accordance with Resolution 2149 (XXI) of the United Nations General Assembly, to facilitate the conclusion of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It reaffirms that its proposal for both German states to renounce the possession, control or share in the control over nuclear weapons in any form is valid now as before. At the same time, the Government of the German Democratic Republic is of the opinion that such a renunciation by the German Democratic Republic and the West German Federal Republic could also be achieved by their accession to a world-wide treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as envisaged in the draft treaty submitted by the USSR.

Accession by both German states to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons would be an important contribution to European security and could have a favourable effect on efforts for effective measures for nuclear and conventional disarmament.